

# ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**November 13, 2003**

For immediate release

- 1. Leaf burning concerns prompt state caution**
- 2. Air quality and animal feeding operations on EPC agenda**

## **LEAF BURNING CONCERNS PROMPT STATE CAUTION**

DES MOINES — Cautions against open burning were issued today by the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Public Health because of risks to persons with respiratory disease and concerns about toxic substances.

Smoke from open burning can irritate the conditions of some people with asthma, said an official with the Iowa Department of Public Health.

"Since lung problems such as asthma are common," said Dr. Thomas Boo, a federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention epidemiologist assigned to the state public health department, "open burning is a public health concern."

He said 200,000 Iowans have asthma and the disease caused children to miss nearly 140,000 days of school. Smoke is just one of many substances that can trigger an asthmatic reaction.

"Smoke contains microscopic soot particles that can damage lung tissue, send asthmatics to hospitals and create odor and haze nuisances," said Brian Button, air information specialist with the DNR.

Smoke can create local air pollution levels much higher than all auto and industrial emissions combined. He said for many Iowa towns, the only time the air is filled with visible air pollution is when citizens burn leaves.

Button urged people to first consider cleaner, safer disposal options such as composting, mulching, recycling or municipal waste disposal instead of burning.

He said several communities have recently enacted bans on garbage and leaf burning due to health concerns.

Iowans can learn more about air quality at [www.iowacleanair.com](http://www.iowacleanair.com) and asthma at [www.idph.state.ia.us/hppab/asthma\\_content/](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hppab/asthma_content/)

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## **AIR QUALITY AND ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS ON EPC AGENDA**

DES MOINES — Commissioners will address issues concerning air quality near animal feeding operations at the November 17 meeting of the Environmental Protection Commission.

A group of agribusiness associations will petition for the adoption of new rules relating to a field study on hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, and odor concentrations and possible health effects.

The DNR will propose to amend a rule that would establish an animal feeding operations health effects value (HEV) and health effects standard (HES) for hydrogen sulfide. The HEV represents a level commonly known to cause a material and verifiable adverse health effect.

The EPC meeting will be held at 10 a.m. at the DNR office, 7900 Hickman Road in Urbandale. Public participation is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The complete agenda follows:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Director's Remarks
- Contract - Keep Iowa Beautiful - Illegal Dumping Prevention Pilot Program
- Contract - Burns and McDonnell Engineering Co., Inc - Combined Heat and Power in Brownsfields Redevelopment
- 2004 Environmental Monitoring and Laboratory Services Agreement with the University of Iowa - Water and Land Quality
- Amend - Chapters 64 and 69, Renewal of General Permit No. 4
- Clean Water SRF Intended Use Plan
- Notice of Intended Action - Chapters 20 and 22, Controlling Pollution (definitions)
- Petition for Rulemaking by Agribusiness Association of Iowa, et.al.
- Proposed Rule - amending Chapter 20 "Scope of Title Definitions-Forms-Rules of Practice" and to amend Chapter 32 "Health Effects Value (HEV)"

- Final Rule - Chapter 22 Controlling Pollution (Air Construction Permitting Exemption for Small Units)
- Notice of Intended Action - Chapter 23 Emission Standards for Contaminants (Commerical and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units that Commenced Construction On or Before November 30, 1999)
- Final Rule - Chapter 23 Emission Standards for Contaminants (Open burning rule revisions including controlled burning of a demolished building)
- Appeal of Contested Case Decision – Piper Motor Company, Inc. and Bruce Piper (Tabled)
- Monthly Reports
- General Discussion

The members of the commission are Kathryn Murphy, Chair, LeMars; Terrance Townsend, Newton; Lisa Davis-Cook, West Des Moines; Darrell Hanson, Manchester; Lori Glanzman, Mt. Pleasant; Jerry Peckum, Jefferson; Heidi Vittetoe, Washington; Francis Thicke, Fairfield; and Donna Buell, Spirit Lake. The director of the DNR is Jeff Vonk.